



**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes  
June 12, 2018**

**Commission Present:** Bossange, Hurley, Pierce, Kaplan and Healy

**Staff Present:** Safavi, Kaeding and Putzier

The meeting was convened at 5:30 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan

**Approval of Agenda**

Kaplan amended the agenda by adding action item IIIA Rates for Lean To Sites, combine items IX and XI Projects Update and City Hall Park Update, remove items X Joint Meetings with other Boards and Update on Memorial Auditorium and Director's Items, motion to approve the agenda as amended by Bossange, second by Healy, motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

Healy read aloud with the motions included, motion made to approve the consent agenda by Healy, second by Bossange, motion carried.

**Request for Sound Waiver at North Beach**

Kaeding said he was looking for a waiver request for sound at North Beach for a dealer.com event from 3-9pm and did not see an issue with it.

Kaplan asked in what direction the noise would be facing and further added she would like it to be facing the water.

Bossange asked if the beach would still be open to the public and if members would be encouraged to bike in or use other alternative modes of transportation if it was congested, Kaeding stated there was plenty of parking available.

Motion to approve request for amplified music by Pierce, second by Healy, motion carried.

**Request for Pricing Rate for Lean To's at North Beach**

Kaeding explained the campground now has its first lean to and wanted to have a discussion with the Commission regarding setting a rate for rental. Said would be inspected very soon and would like price confirmation of \$45 per night, would come with a grill and other amenities. The lean to's would be located in one area.

Motion to approve the rate request of \$45 per night, for lean to rental by Healy, second by Pierce, motion carried.

**Request for Entertainment Event at City Hall Park**

Bossange asked about what the fundraising was for specifically and had concerns with using some of the funding for repairs to the solar bus and taking away from the actual efforts in Haiti specifically.



Kaplan explained that per the submitted request this was for a benefit concert to fund better water usage in Haiti.

Pierce suggested postponing and having either applicant or staff provide additional information regarding the organization and specifics with the fund raising and bus repairs. Would like to invite to the next commission meeting.

Motion to postpone action and receive additional information from applicant at the next meeting, Pierce, second by Bossange, motion carried.

#### **Request for Conservation Legacy Funds**

Item postponed to the next Commission meeting.

#### **Request for Easement at Calahan Park**

Chapin Spencer, Director of DPW introduced himself, stated he was asking for support and authorization from BPRW to sign easement right of way for the Champlain Parkway.

Spencer explained the purpose is to connect I89 to Pine Street business section, new street, connects Lakeside Avenue to Pine Street then up to Main Street, appropriately downsized into a two-lane multi-model City Street.

Working with other property owners for right of ways. Currently down to 10 owners to get authorization from, very modest right-of-ways. Been through City Council on May 21<sup>st</sup>, showed a need for final parcels, found was a necessity, moving forward. Most rights are temporary rights for construction. Spencer then spoke specifically to the request from Calahan Park with Pine Street.

Explained the square footage needed was 129 to install and maintain, need slope right and fencing as well. Explained the temporary portion for construction use and a smaller section necessary for sidewalk construction. Slight change in slope for sidewalk that would need to stay.

Pierce asked for clarification of sidewalk as permanent easement, and slope as temporary, Spencer confirmed that was correct.

Bossange asked how much wider Pine Street would be and was told it would not make the actual street any wider. Would only make the corridor better.

Hurley asked what is happening at Maple and Pine Street intersection and was told signaling for pedestrians and a bump out for crossing.

Healy stated her understanding was the request was mainly to make sidewalk safer and wider and was told would be 5-6 feet wide and would be a shared use for bikes and pedestrians.

Motion to approve the requested easement of 129 square feet for sidewalk, temporary easements for construction and extend slopes and embankments by Bossange, second by Hurley, motion carried.

#### **Public Forum (Time Certain 6:00 PM, 3 min. per person time limit)**

Public forum opened at 6:01 p.m. by Commission Chair Kaplan.



Stephen Norman, Burlington resident, spoke of having French signage on the greenway, handed out a copy of signage that is used in Plattsburg that has a French addition as well. Recognized that French signage is along the waterfront and campground, explained that Moreau, Marina Manager, is actively hiring French-speaking staff. Read the approved City Council resolution that was passed some time ago that states “due to many French speaking people around us, the need to show how much they are appreciated and welcomed to Burlington”, also about marketing. Felt having more on new signage on the Greenway would distinguish from other Cities and Towns. Stated the Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Director, Cindi Wight, did not know about this resolution. Norman reached out to her and she referred him to staff member Madalinski (who is working on the signage for the greenway) and they worked on coming up with a mockup. Norman thought the signs could be rebranded inexpensively with vinyl lettering. Madalinski stated it could not be done because the signs were already into the process and not an option.

Norman would like Wight to be authorized to make this change on all sign posts that will be posted with the added French on them.

Pierce asked if the price was \$75 total for all signs and was told yes. Stated a sign was posted at Oakledge with several other languages and felt it was a great idea to have all languages.

Bossange stated that he saw a sign as well at North Beach with several Languages.

Healy agreed that it made sense to appear welcoming to our Canadian neighbors and to those that live in the community.

Safavi stated the greenway is a project that she is very proud of and the goal is to make all signage in parks readable and the same in all parks. Worked with translator, she pointed to some of the signs with mock up and felt too small and inappropriate place to be and not only in French but in any language.

Opportunities were found in some of the larger panel signs that have a map and tell the story and would like to have in French and in English, and making tourists feel welcome. The particular post signs were not an appropriate location. Look forward to working on more moving forward.

Bossange suggested other locations for posting could be at pause places along the greenway, where people pause to look at the beach.

Kaplan stated that the intent of the resolution was meant to honor the relationships of the centennial and is very supportive of the intent, understands the marketing piece and the concept of everyone living in the community and speaking other languages and trusts staff to find a happy medium, but will be happy to continue to have dialogue.

Norman stated he liked the mockup that Madalinski came up with and would love to see it on signs.

Public forum closed at 6:16 p.m.

#### **Guidelines for Electric Vehicles on Greenway**

Safavi explained the department had been receiving many questions of what is allowed on greenway.



Kaplan stated the Commission had done a lot of work on this topic and according to the State rules, Segways can go anywhere that people can go. Segway got put into State Statute that it was an assisted vehicle. Bossange did a lot of research on this from other Cities and Towns and also discussed ebikes, which are also in the realm of assisted vehicles, allowed on the greenway and set a speed limit of 14 miles an hour.

Bossange will send all research materials on this topic to Safavi. Kaplan stated she was surprised nothing went to ordinance on this topic. Bossange stated electric skateboards was a new thing all together that has not been discussed to this point.

Safavi explained she recognized there was no ordinance and is looking at what other places around the Country are doing.

Pierce said there is a rule that bikes must have lights but questioned if skateboards are required to also.

Safavi recommended the Commission look at the information and have conversations about what they would like to see. Kaplan reminded all that with any ordinance comes an enforcement piece and to remain mindful of that piece.

#### **Projects Update by Nina Safavi, Parks Planner**

Safavi stated an ad hoc committee was formed for the City Hall Park design. The group is comprised of Kurt Wright, Dave Hartnett, Sharon Bushor, Cindi Wight and VJ Comai, as well as some others, to try and save some of the trees, some involves planting of trees, another, removing some, the group is meeting tonight at 7:30 p.m., at the Police Department. No decisions yet, hopeful to have some answers tonight and then the project will be turned over to the Parks Department to construct next summer.

Safavi began a presentation of projects that are coming up and not necessarily funded but would love to see happen.

1. North Beach Campground siting study and design. Has not been updated in many years. More tree plantings, some things that are missing, new lean to's and cabins, orientation of paths for cyclists, pedestrians, drivers and campers, open space with general store and indoor fireplace, extended season, enhanced landscaping and revenue generating capacity.
2. Oakledge for all universally accessible playground received grant money and committee has good leads for fundraising and other monies. Will have a kickoff event in August and will send out invitations, showed some images, pieces would include several different swings that would be interactive.
3. Perkins Pier land and water side, have not seen improvements in a very long time, need for additional slips and improving facilities, looking to do this year or next year for construction goal of 2020. Very popular site and looking at what can be done to meet standards.
4. Blodgett Spur, potential opportunity to put something in and would be an easement to the City, currently private property and BPRW is advocating for public access.
5. Regional Park Shelters, opportunity to have one at Leddy Beach, very popular, replace North Beach shelter and Oakledge shelter, great opportunity for interesting architectural design and naming opportunity.
6. Iconic Gateway signs, Waterfront Park, Ethan Allen Park, North Beach, Leddy Park and 311 North Avenue, great opportunities for iconic sculpted areas, gateways.



7. Ethan Allen Park Pinnacle re-envisioning, nice views, restore to historic state, landscaping, overlook, signage trail connections.
8. Bike Park, selecting a location in the City that would have ramps, circuit, possibly in the Urban Reserve, or using the old landfill, which is currently DPW's lot. Building a lot of momentum in the community, trying to balance and find the right place. Potentially building something at the former Burlington College site.
9. Schmanska Park Barn, revisioning of space to suit new needs, FY22+, have community events, plenty of parking, redone courts, not currently being used, needs renovations to meet fire code. Suggested doing a bbq when all work is completed.
10. Burlington Nature Center at the former Burlington College stone house, celebrates natural history, deepening commitment of ecology and trails, renovations to transform the space to a community gathering space, new greenhouse addition, \$250k donation to date to leverage.
11. Leddy athletic tennis expansion, opportunity for tennis expansion for regional tournaments, improvements to trail connections, landscaping and the outdoor squash court, 2020 siting study and master plan FY2021 construction.

Kaplan stated she would like to see the lighted courts remain. She also said they had funding available for this type of use.

Safavi invited the Commission to send any of their ideas to her directly if, and when they have input, information or any other great ideas.

Kaplan would like to get out into the community more and do meetings at other places on a monthly basis for commission meetings.

#### **Joint Meetings with Other Boards**

Item removed.

#### **City Hall Park Update**

This item was combined with item IX. Above.

#### **Update on Parks Foundation (Standing Item)**

Bossange had nothing new to report at this time.

#### **Update on Memorial Auditorium**

Item removed.

#### **Director's Items**

Item removed

#### **Commissioner's Items**

Healy asked for confirmation of the date for the July meeting, which was scheduled for July 17<sup>th</sup> and suggested starting to have the Commission monthly meetings at different locations. Kaplan suggested having the July meeting at the Boathouse. Putzier will look into scheduling with Splash.

Hurley said the Beach Bites event was great and could not wait to attend more. She also stated she was concerned about the recent sewage leaks.



Pierce inquired about bringing guests to the July 3<sup>rd</sup> VIP event at the Waterfront and Kaplan told him to get in touch with Emma Allen the event coordinator.

Kaplan expressed that the commission has several joint issues with other commissions/boards and felt it would be worthwhile to have a public forum with others to touch on similar issues.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 7:05p.m. by Hurley, second by Healy, motion carried.